

### **REMARKS**

This Application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 24, 2006. Claims 1-25 are pending with Claims 1 and 15 in independent form. Claim 17 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action includes a rejection of Claims 14 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. To elaborate, the Office Action refers to the use of the phrase "portable document format" in Claims 14 and 15 as identifying a trademark or tradename used as a limitation to describe a particular material or product. However, upon a review of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office trademark database and the attached listing of trademarks owned by Adobe®, both of which do not identify the phrase "portable document format" as a trademark or tradename, Applicant respectfully submits that such phrase is not a trademark or tradename. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the phrase "portable document format" is properly used in Claims 14 and 15 and respectfully requests withdrawal of the corresponding §112, second paragraph, rejections.

Claims 1-9, 11-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,407,820 (Hansen et al.). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over the Hansen et al. patent in view of Microsoft Windows XP. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and submits that the claims are patentable over the cited references, taken separately or in any proper combination, for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires a method of printing a document from a digital file using a plurality of print output devices. A first print output device includes a plurality of media sources for supplying media of at least one selected type to a marking engine and also includes an inserter for inserting pages of media at selectable locations within pages of an output document printed by the marking engine. The method includes storing an input document in a machine readable form and identifying at least one page of the stored input document as a special page by assigning a media type to the identified page that differs from the at least one selected type suppliable by the media sources of the first print output device. The method also includes generating a modified print document from the stored

input document by replacing each of the identified special pages with an insert command to the first print output device to insert a page from its inserter. Additionally, the method includes printing the identified special pages using one of the plurality of print output devices to produce at least one printed copy of the special pages and loading the inserter of the first print output device with the at least one printed copy of the special pages. Further, the method includes printing the modified print document using the first print output device.

A notable feature of Claim 1 is the identifying of at least one page of a stored input document as a special page by assigning a media type to the identified page that differs from the at least one selected type suppliable by the media sources of the first print output device. Support for this feature can be found in the specification at least at paragraph [0043]. In essence, this feature of Claim 1 identifies special pages in a document by assigning a media type to the identified pages that is not suppliable by the first print output device. An advantage of this feature is that standard software validation routines will catch such assigned media type as an error, thereby providing a tool by which the special pages can be identified without having to write additional custom software routines.

Although the Applicant does not claim that the general process of submitting certain pages of a single print job to different marking machines is new, Applicant does claim that the particular method of doing so, recited in Claim 1, is new. In particular, the Hansen et al. patent is understood to generally refer to the use of flags or attributes to identify particular pages that need to be printed by another printing device. See column 18, line 40, to column 19, line 7, and column 19, lines 27-37. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the Hansen et al. patent does not specifically teach the particular identifying step recited in Claim 1 of assigning a media type to the identified pages that differs from the at least one selected type suppliable by the media sources of the first print output device. Applicant respectfully submits that the disclosure in the Hansen patent generally describes flagging pages in a document in setting a specially defined page attribute to identify particular pages. See column 18, lines 40-44. However, Applicant respectfully submits that such disclosure does not teach or suggest the specifics of assigning a media type to the identified pages that differs from the at least one selected type suppliable by the media sources of the first print output

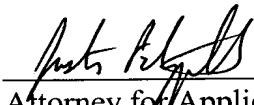
device, as required by Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Hansen et al. patent does not anticipate Claim 1, and therefore, respectfully requests withdrawal of the corresponding §102(e) rejection. Further, Applicant is not aware of any feature in Windows XP that teaches or suggests such feature of Claim 1, alone or in combination with the Hansen et al. patent.

Independent Claim 15 is a print shop environment claim that corresponds to method Claim 1 and is respectfully submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons.

Further, the other rejected claims in this Application depend from one of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are respectfully submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons as well. However, since each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested. For example, dependent Claim 3 requires that the assigning of an inserter media type to a page of the input document results in an invalid job configuration. In response, the Office Action refers to the Hansen et al. patent's use of exception pages that are produced on an alternate output device. See column 19, lines 27-29 of the Hansen et al. patent. However, Applicant respectfully disagrees that the use of the word exception by the Hansen et al. patent is intended to refer to an invalid job configuration. In particular, the Hansen et al. patent merely refers to any page printed by the alternate output device as being an exception page. Applicant has not found any teaching or suggestion in the Hansen et al. patent that the printing of such exception pages by the alternate output device is in any way an invalid job configuration as required by Claim 3. To elaborate, independent Claim 1 from which Claim 3 indirectly depends, requires the assigning of a media type to the identified pages that differs from the media types suppliable by the media sources of the first print output device. Such a situation results in an invalid job configuration because a media type has been assigned to the identified pages that are not suppliable by the media sources of the first print output device. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Hansen et al. patent does not teach or suggest an invalid job configuration as required by Claim 3.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present Application. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.



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